

School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County

P.O. 591

Annapolis, Maryland 21404-0591

Application for Appointment to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education

DEADLINE: A completed application (including this cover page) must be received by close of business on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. Applications may either be mailed to: School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County, P.O. Box 591, Annapolis, MD 21404-0591 or e-mailed to sbncacc@gmail.com.

Name: Teresa Milio Birge

Address: Odenton, MD 21113
(Must be Anne Arundel County Resident)

Telephone:
(Home) _____
(Work) _____
(Cell) _____

E-Mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____

How long have you been an Anne Arundel County Resident? 35 total years, 32 continuous

Can we contact you at work? (Please circle) Yes No

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? (Please circle) Yes No

Are you a registered voter? (Please circle) Yes No

Please attach a current resume with this application.

Professional organizational memberships and positions held and length of service: (Please limit to past fifteen years)

Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA)
Candidate Member (Current)

Pi Alpha Alpha Public Administration Honor Society (1994-95)

Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society (1991-93)
President, Vice President, Recording Secretary

. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Community Involvement: (Please limit to the past fifteen years.)

Seven Oaks Elementary School Volunteer and PTA member
(2007 - present)

Odenton Town Center Plan Oversight Committee Member
(2007 - present)

Seven Oaks Babysitting Co-op Member (2003 - present)
President (2006 - 2007)

Zeta Tau Alpha Women's Fraternity Annapolis (2007 - present)
Alumna Chapter Member

. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Awards/Honors: What award/honors have you been most proud to receive? (Please include the year of the award and the awarding institution or entity.)

University of Delaware College of Urban Affairs and
Public Policy Dean's Citation 1995

Towson University Summa Cum Laude 1993

Towson University Outstanding Woman Finalist 1993

. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Please answer the following questions. Your responses for each question must be typed and may not exceed two pages and be written in single spaced 12 point font on 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper.

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Anne Arundel County School Board? Please include an explanation of the primary strengths you would bring to this position, and what you believe is the proper role of a Board member?
2. What do you believe are the three most critical issues currently facing the Anne Arundel County Public Schools? And what specific ideas do you have to address these Issues?
3. What is your exposure to, or experience with, the Anne Arundel County Public Schools?

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Anne Arundel County School Board? Please include an explanation of the primary strengths you would bring to this position, and what you believe is the proper role of a Board member?

I am interested in serving on the Anne Arundel County Board of Education because I would like to assist in the effort to bring the best education possible to all of the students in Anne Arundel County. I have a strong commitment to public service and the public school system, and I believe that I would be an asset to the Board.

The school system impacts all citizens in many ways, whether or not they have children in the schools. Our schools are educating neighbors, the people who work in the stores our citizens frequent, possibly the nursing aides who will take care of them if they have to go to the hospital or a rehabilitation center, and so many others. So, the quality of the education impacts everyone, and it is every citizen's responsibility to take an interest to ensure that the best possible education is being provided in our communities. I would like to do my part to ensure that this happens.

I believe that a board member's proper role is that of a policymaker, and an idea generator. I think that a board member needs to allow the Superintendent and his or her staff to do their job and make the administrative decisions that have clearly been delegated to them. I do, however, think that a board member should be attentive to the decisions that are being made, and make comments and ask questions as warranted. In addition, a board member needs to work well with the other members. A member is just one member – the board will be a group of nine people who must come to a decision. One member cannot do the job alone.

I will bring to the board a solid policy and financial background. My academic and professional background is in public administration and policy, and the skills and knowledge that I have gained in these areas will assist me greatly in carrying out my duties as a board member. I spent several years as staff to the House Appropriations Committee in the Maryland General Assembly, and have an excellent understanding of the State budget and legislative process. My more recent accounting work will also be helpful when evaluating budgetary issues. In addition, my Master's degree in Public Administration has provided me with a broad background to assist my understanding of the workings of the public school system itself.

2. What do you believe are the three most critical issues currently facing the Anne Arundel County Public Schools? And what specific ideas do you have to address these issues?

There are a number of critical issues currently facing Anne Arundel County Public Schools, but I believe three of the most critical issues are: 1) addressing our aging school infrastructure; 2) preparing our non-college bound students for careers; and 3) attracting and keeping quality teachers.

Anne Arundel County has recently built some amazing, state-of-the-art school facilities, but as a whole, the age of the county's system is showing. There are a number of schools that need to be replaced or have major renovations in the very near future. On the average, date of construction (or major renovation, which updates the year of a facility) is 1979. Our school facility inventory age is older than the statewide average, and though we have been getting closer to the statewide average in recent years, much more needs to be done.

Anne Arundel County is in a difficult situation. Because of our relatively high property tax base, we only receive 50% of our school construction money from the state. Most of the other jurisdictions that have an older facility inventory like ours receive a much higher match from the State for school construction. Of the seven other jurisdictions with aging facilities similar to or older than ours, two counties (Washington and Prince George's) receive over 60% State funding, one county (Allegany) receives 90% State funding and two others (Somerset and Baltimore City) receive 97% State funding. This places more competing demands on the Anne Arundel County budget. I provide this information mainly to point out how difficult it is for us to meet our construction needs because of the high percentage of construction costs we are required to pay.

If it hasn't already been done, we need to conduct a complete evaluation of our renovation and construction needs over the next 30 to 40 years, and these projects need to be put on a schedule. With a maintenance backlog exceeding \$1.5 billion, according to a recent Capital article, we cannot afford to defer maintenance any longer. However high the costs are now, they will only be higher later. We need to work with the County Executive, County Council, and the General Assembly, to ensure that our laws and policies are structured in such a way to provide adequate funding to prevent our children from attending classes in deteriorating buildings, and to make sure that portable classrooms don't become a permanent solution for any school.

The second critical issue facing our schools is the preparation of our non-college bound students for careers. We have a booming business community that needs well educated workers, and they don't all need college degrees. We need to be able to provide well qualified workers to the many businesses that are already located here, as well as the ones that will be coming with the arrival of BRAC related activity.

The school system is doing more all the time to improve the education of our college bound students with Honors, A.P. and the relatively new International Baccalaureate program now at three of our high schools. We need to make sure that the needs of our students without the desire to go to college will still be met. I was pleased to see reports of the success of the recent Career Expo, and believe that programs such as that are very important. We must continue to foster partnerships between the business

community and our middle and high schools so that students can understand how their coursework relates to potential careers that they can get excited about. We also need to make sure that we have the courses and programs in place that will provide the knowledge that these students need for these arriving jobs. Communicating with the business community, again, is an absolute necessity, to ensure that our students graduate ready to fill their needs.

The third critical issue facing Anne Arundel County Public Schools that I would like to discuss is the need to attract and keep quality teachers. Turnover is much too high, and we lose too many new teachers each year. This problem is likely to be exacerbated in the next few years by a large number of retirements. Our first thought should be to look to Maryland's colleges for new teachers, but they are not producing enough new teachers each year to fill the openings in Maryland, and the competition for hiring these graduates is intense. We must find other ways to attract, recruit and keep quality teachers here in our school system.

We need to move beyond traditional recruiting methods to find our new teachers. One population that should be considered is second career candidates. There will likely be a large pool of potential second career candidates with the influx of new residents arriving for the BRAC transition. AACPS needs to work to recruit both spouses of transferring workers, as well as retiring military personnel, to consider a second career in education.

Retaining teachers is another obviously difficult issue. I believe that allowing teachers more flexibility in their classrooms would be an excellent, no-cost, incentive to motivate teachers and encourage them to stay. Many teachers entered this profession to provide a creative spark for their students. Sometimes prescribed curricula can become suffocating for our educators, and we need to encourage our teachers to adapt plans and allow them the flexibility to use their own ideas in a way that works best for the teacher and his or her class.

I've really just touched on these three issues, and they are but a few of the critical issues facing AACPS. As a member of the Board of Education, I would give all of the issues my full attention, and work with my colleagues to find the best available solutions.

3. What is your exposure to, or experience with, the Anne Arundel County Public Schools?

I have had a lifetime of exposure to Anne Arundel County Public Schools. My public school life started in 1976 as a kindergartener at Crofton Elementary School. While a student at perpetually overcrowded Crofton Elementary, I attended 5th and 6th grade at the Carver Annex. From there, I attended Crofton Junior High for 7th to 9th grade, and continued on to Arundel Senior High School where I graduated in 1989. I was active in student government, and had the privilege to serve as both the president and vice-president of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC). I received an excellent education at all of these schools, and my coursework in high school well prepared me for college.

After attending college at Towson University and graduate school out of state, I returned to Anne Arundel County for my second stage of exposure to the Anne Arundel County Public Schools – that of a childless taxpayer. During this phase, I was still an interested observer, and followed the important decisions and activities.

I'm now in my third stage of exposure to AACPS, as a parent of a kindergartener at the new Seven Oaks Elementary School, and it has brought my interest back to a new level. I have been extremely pleased with my son's first year of school. Of course, I still have all the new kindergarten parent worries, like what if he can't open his milk by himself. I imagine that I will continue to be much more focused on school issues for the next 15 years or so, until his younger sister finishes high school.

My experience with AACPS has essentially been a positive one, and as a board member, I would like to help ensure that every child in Anne Arundel County is able to have a positive school experience as well.

I CERTIFY that this application (and any copy or facsimile of same) contains no willful misrepresentation and that the information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further certify and understand that:

Completion and submission of this application, gives the School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County, the authority to submit my name for a criminal records check including a search of the child abuse registry;

Information on this application and any documents submitted to be included with this application will be deemed public records of the School Board Nomination Commission of Anne Arundel County and may be made available to the public upon request. Only information deemed confidential in accordance with applicable federal and state law will be withheld from public disclosure;

Should any investigation at any time disclose otherwise, my application may be rejected, my name may be removed from consideration for appointment the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, and I may be disqualified from applying for any future Board vacancy;

I am not presently employed by the Board of Education; and

By signing this application, I am consenting to any reasonable inquiry that may be necessary to verify the information I have provided on this form or that I may provide in conjunction with my application for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

Signature Jeresa Milis Burge

Date 3/26/2008

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Odenton Town Center Plan Oversight Committee Member (May 2007 to present)
Seven Oaks Elementary School Volunteer and PTA Member (September 2007 to present)
Seven Oaks Babysitting Co-op, Member (November 2003 to present)
and Past President (March 2006 to June 2007)
Zeta Tau Alpha Women's Fraternity (Sept 2007 to present)
Annapolis Alumna Chapter Member

EDUCATION

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING CERTIFICATE 2007
Anne Arundel Community College *Arnold, MD*
 Certificate verifies qualification to sit for Certified Public Accountant Licensing Exam.

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (M.P.A.) 1995
University of Delaware *Newark, DE*
 Specialization in State and Local Management. College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy
 Dean's Citation Recipient; Pi Alpha Alpha Public Administration Honor Society; University
 of Delaware Fellowship Recipient; Urban Affairs Student Association, *MPA Representative*.

B.S. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND MASS COMMUNICATION 1993
Towson University *Baltimore, MD*
 Summa Cum Laude; Maryland Distinguished Scholar; Omicron Delta Kappa National
 Leadership Honor Society, *President, Vice President, Recording Secretary*; Student Government
 Association, *Senator, Government Operations Committee Chairperson*; Zeta Tau Alpha
 Women's Fraternity, *Treasurer*.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA 1989
Arundel High School
Crofton Junior High School
Crofton Elementary School

PERSONAL

Married to Benjamin J. Birge, Associate Vice President for Government Relations,
 University of Maryland University College
 Children: Carter, a 5 year old kindergartener at Seven Oaks Elementary, and Claire, age 3.